News-item 'US playing India card to curb China Beijing Magazine'

2029. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Economic Times' dated 25th June, 2001 under the caption "US playing India card to curb China Beijing Magazine";

(b) if so, Government's reactions thereto;

(c) whether Government have received any formal communication from the Chinese Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would reiterate the basic principles of India's foreign policy to emphasize its desire to maintain peaceful and friendly relations with all foreign countries, so as to remove the misgivings which the Chinese Government harbour on this count?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India-US relations are neither directed against any country nor are they at the expense of our friendly relations with any other country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Economy in foreign office establishments

2030. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 6th July, 2001 under the caption "Economising is foreign to their mission";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problem raised in the news-item in order to ensure a modicum of accountability and a mindset for economy in the Foreign Office establishments in and outside the country?